

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Lecture course 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature (19th-21st centuries) (2AN1401)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills.
- To introduce students to modern literary history and to some of the historical, social and intellectual contexts which have helped shape British or North American culture
- To familiarize students with theoretical questions associated with modernity, including the role of culture (what is literature? what is the canon?) and the formation of identity (nation, race, and gender)

At the end of the semester, students should be sufficiently familiar with a selection of literary texts (poetry, prose, drama) and with the period in which they were produced to understand the period and discuss it critically. The oral exam will test the following in particular: students' understanding of the most significant aspects of a text's form and content; possible historical, thematic and formal connections between individual texts / authors, and the significance of these texts within literary and social history.

Notice: This course alternates every year between British and American Literature. In Autumn 2018, the course will be on British literature.

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Option 1: Introduction to Modern and Contemporary British Literature

This lecture is an introduction to British, and very briefly, post-colonial literature from 1790 onwards. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were marked by profound political, economic, social and scientific upheavals. Beginning with the Revolution in France, the course will provide an overview of the four major periods in modern cultural history, including Romanticism, the Victorian Age, Modernism, and, briefly, Post-Modernism. Special attention will be placed on the sources of modern self, on the relations between self, society and culture, and on the place of culture in discourses of nation and empire. Readings have been chosen from the Norton anthology based on their relevance to the themes of the lecture, but also to the BA exam reading list. Students will be expected to acquire a basic knowledge of British history and geography in this period.

Option 2: Introduction to American Literature

An overview of American literature, history and culture from the first explorers to the end of the twentieth century, this lecture will test the idea of an American literary canon and of a representative American self against a variety of fictional and non-fictional texts. Classical American literary history was constructed around an exceptionalist ideology derived from Puritan culture and that is today identified with the "American dream." We will see how this cultural history was formed, and how the recent opening of the canon to underrepresented voices, including those of Native- and African-Americans, has challenged it. Readings have been chosen from the Norton anthology based on their relevance to the themes of the lecture, but also to the BA exam reading list. Students will be expected to acquire a basic grounding in American history and geography.

Forme de l'évaluation

- Ex. 030': thirty-minute oral exam during the exam session based on material studied in the course and on an individualized reading list based on the BA exam reading list. A hand-out explaining the exam will be distributed in the beginning of the semester.
- 1 or 2 short, unmarked multiple-choice type exams during the semester to test your preparedness for the exam.

Documentation

In alternate years:

- The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 8th or 9th edition, volume 2
- The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter 7th or 8th edition

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(Several copies will be made available in the B.1.48 alvéole. Please note that they are for scanning or in-library reading purposes only and cannot be removed from the library)

Pré-requis

First-year courses (PP1-PP3)

Forme de l'enseignement

Lecture (Cours), with active student involvement.